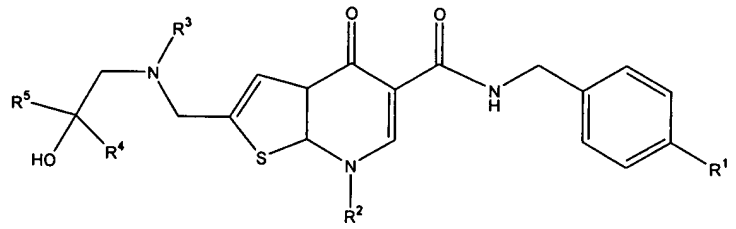
Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.(Amended) A compound of formula **I**



I

its enantiomers , diastereomeric or tauteromeric isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt wherein,

R^1 is

(a) Cl

(b) Br

(c) F, or

(d) CN;

R^2 is

(a) C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by one or more OH or C_{1-4} alkoxy, or

(b) $(CH_2)_mOCH_3CH_2OH$;

R^3 is C_{1-2} alkyl;

R^4 is phenyl optionally fused to a benzene or pyridine ring, and substituted with one or more R^6;

R^5 is

(a) H, or

(b) C_{1-2} alkyl optionally substituted by OH;

R^6 is

(a) halo,

(b) OCF_3,

(c) cyano,

(d) nitro,

(e) $CONR^7R^8$,

(f) NR^7R^8,

(g) C_{1-7} alkyl which is optionally partially unsaturated and optionally substituted by one or more R^9,

(h) $O(CH_2CH_2O)_nR^{10}$,

(i) ~~OR^{10}~~

(j) CO_2R^{10},

(k) phenyl optionally substituted by halo, C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{1-7} alkoxy,

(l) ~~SR^{10}~~

(m) imidazolyl,

(n) $S(O)_mNR^7R^8$,

(o) $NHC(=O)R^{10}$, or

(p) any two adjacent R^6 substituents taken together constitute a group of the formula – $O(CH_2)_mO$-, -$(NH)(CO)(CH_2)_jO$-, or –$(CH_2)_i$-;

R^7 and R^8 are independently

(a) H,

(b) phenyl optionally substituted by halo, C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{1-7} alkoxy,

(c) C_{1-7} alkyl which is optionally substituted by one or more OR^{10}, phenyl, or halo substituents

(d) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl,

(e) $(C=O)R^{11}$,

(f) R^7 and R^8 together with the nitrogen to which they attach form a het, wherein het is a five- (5), or six- (6) membered heterocycle ring having one (1), two (2), or three (3) heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen, wherein het is optionally substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^9 is

(a) oxo,

(b) phenyl optionally substituted by halo, C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{1-7} alkoxy,

(c) OR^{10},

(d) $O(CH_2CH_2)OR^{10}$,

(e) SR^{10},

(f) NR^7R^8,

(g) halo,

(h) CO_2R^{10},

(i) $CONR^{10}R^{10}$, or

(j) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl optionally substituted by OR^{10};

R^{10} is

(a) H,

(b) C_{1-7} alkyl

(c) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl or

(d) phenyl optionally substituted by halo, C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{1-7} alkoxy

R^{11} is

(a) C_{1-7} alkyl

(b) C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, or

(c) Phenyl optionally substituted by halo, C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{1-7} alkoxy;

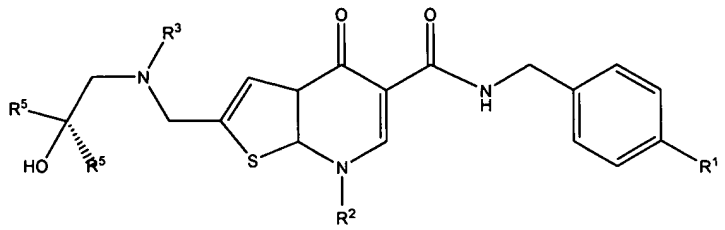
i is 3 or 4

j is 0 or 1

n is 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 and

each m is independently 1 or 2.

2. (original) A compound of claim 1 which is a compound of formula IA



IA.

3. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^1 is chloro.

4. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is C_{1-3}alkyl.

5. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is methyl.

6. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is ethyl or n-propyl.

7. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is C_{1-3} alkyl substituted with one or two hydroxyl.

8. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is 2-hydroxyethyl, 3-hydroxypropyl, or 1,2-dihydroxypropyl.

9. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is C_{1-4}alkyl substituted by C_{1-4}alkoxy.

10. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is C_{1-4}alkyl substituted by methoxy.

11. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^2 is 2-methoxyethyl.

12. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^3 is methyl.

13. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^3 is ethyl.

14. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^4 is phenyl.

15. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^4 is phenyl substituted by R^6.

16. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^4 is naphthyl, optionally substituted with one or more R^6.

17. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^4 is phenyl. Fused to a pyridine ring, optionally substituted with one or more R^6.

18. (original) A compound of claim 15 wherein R^6 is OH, halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, cyano, nitro, OCF_3, NR^7R^8, phenyl, or $CONR^7R^8$.

19. (original) A compound of claim 15 wherein R^6 is OH, methoxy, or cyano.

20. (original) A compound of claim 18 wherein R^7 and R^8 together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a het, wherein het is morpholine, piperidine, piperazine, or pyrrolidine.

21. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^5 is hydrogen.

22. (original) A compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R^5 is methyl or ethyl.

23. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. (original) A method of treating infections by herpesvirus which comprises administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound of claim 1.

25. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein said herpesvirus is herpes simplex virus types 1, herpes simplex virus types 2, varicella zoster virus, human cytomegalovirus, Epstein-Barr virus, human herpes virus 6, human herpes virus 7 or human herpes virus 8.

26. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein said herpes virus is human cytomegalovirus.

27. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein said herpes virus is varicella zoster virus or Epstein-Barr virus.

28. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein said herpes virus is herpes simplex virus types 1 or herpes simplex virus types 2.

29. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the compound of claim 1 is administered orally, parenterally or topically.

30. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the compound of claim 1 is in an amount of from 0.1 to about 300 mg/kg of body weight.

31. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the compound of claim 1 is in an amount of from 1 to about 30 mg/kg of body weight.

32. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein said mammal is a human.

33. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein said mammal is an animal.

34. (cancelled) A method of treating atherosclerosis and restenosis, mediated by herpesviral infection, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a compound of claim 1 or 2.

35.(cancelled) A method for inhibiting a herpesviral DNA polymerase, comprising contacting the polymerase with an effective inhibitory amount of a compound of claim 1.

36.(cancelled) A compound of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the manufacture of medicines for the treatment or prevention of a herpesviral infection in a mammal.

37.(Amended) A compound of claim 1 which is

~~(1) N-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)(methyl)amino)methyl)-7-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,~~

~~(2) N-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)(methyl)amino)methyl)-7-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,~~

(3) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-7-(2,3-dihydroxypropyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)(methyl)amino)methyl)-4-oxo-4,7dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

(4) N-(4-chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)(methyl)amino)methyl)-7-(3-hydroxypropyl)-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

(5) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-7-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)-(methyl)amino)methyl)-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

(6) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)(methyl)-amino)methyl)-7-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

~~(7) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-7-ethyl-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)(methyl)amino)methyl)-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,~~

(8) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)(methyl)amino)methyl)-4-oxo-7-propyl-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

(9) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)(methyl)amino)methyl)-7-(2-methoxyethyl)-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

(10) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-(4-cyanophenyl)ethyl)(methyl)-amino)methyl)-7-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

(11) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-(3-cyanophenyl)ethyl)(methyl)-amino)methyl)-7-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

(12) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-(4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)-2-hydroxyethyl)-(methyl)amino)methyl)-7-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

(13) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-(4-(hydroxymethyl)phenyl)ethyl)-(methyl)amino)methyl)-7-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide,

(14) N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-2-((((2S)-2-hydroxy-2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl)(methyl)-amino)methyl)-7-methyl-4-oxo-4,7-dihydrothieno[2,3-b]pyridine-5-carboxamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.